



# Dept. requests 51 new positions

The department's budget request for the 2018-19 fiscal year asks the city to fund 21 new dispatcher positions and 30 new patrol officer positions.

The Board of Police Commissioners unanimously approved the request at their October meeting and submitted it to the City Manager's Office. Fiscal Year 2018-19 begins May 1, 2018.

"With our current staffing, we are unable to provide the kind of service taxpayers expect, so I believe these additional positions would be a very wise investment," Chief Rick Smith wrote on his blog. "These requests have been echoed by the community."

In a guest column for the Kansas City Star defending the additional positions, Board President Leland Shurin wrote the department's staffing has been significantly reduced in recent years.

"To keep a balanced budget, we cut 110 officer positions and 99 non-sworn positions last year," Shurin wrote. "Ten years ago we had 1,423 sworn officers. Right now we have exactly 1,300. We also had 695 non-sworn staff members in 2007. Today it's 514. The KCPD is operating leaner than it has in years."

He concurred that the community is demanding better.

"The ... request for additional staff in the 2018-19 Fiscal Year budget is a direct response to community concerns about rising violent crime, increased response times and being put on hold when calling 911," Shurin wrote.

Many people have been put on hold in an emergency because the Communications Unit is understaffed. The average 911 hold time increased from 26 seconds in August to 30 seconds in September.

"This is unacceptable to both the Kansas City Missouri Police Department and the community we serve," Chief Smith wrote. "When you call 911 in a crisis, you should get an immediate response."

Twenty-one new dispatcher positions would cost \$1,071,000 in FY 2018-19, and that would still leave KCPD on the low side of

staffing, according to national standards. The Association of Public Safety Communications Officials' staffing formula takes into account city population, call load and staffing numbers, among other factors. Based on that, KCPD should have 150 dispatchers. The 21 additional dispatcher positions requested in this budget would bring the department only to 113.

For the last two years, as officer numbers have decreased to stay within budget, response times have increased, peaking at a citywide average of 9 minutes and 20 seconds for Priority 1 calls in November 2016. With some Academy classes coming through, the average is back to about 8 minutes citywide, but some areas like Shoal Creek Patrol Division still experience an average of 9 and a half minutes for a response in an emergency. Lower-priority calls like home burglaries and non-injury accidents wait hours for a police response.

Chief Smith said 30 additional patrol officer positions are the minimum needed to improve response times.

"Patrol officers are the backbone of this department, and in my view, everything else KCPD

does is to support the patrol function," Smith wrote.

The budget request stipulates that those new officers would not come on until mid-year after other Academy classes have graduated, so the request for these new officers in FY 2018-19 would be \$720,000.

Chief Smith also warned of impending technology costs, although they are not included in the 2018-19 budget request. Many of KCPD's major technological systems are 10 or more years old and coming

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# 40+ years of service honored



**D**epartment employees with 40 or more years of service to KCPD were honored in a ceremony October 20. From left are Jennifer Van Kirk, Polygraph Section; Mike Harper, Detention Services Unit; Mike Russell, Application Support Section; Carl Brennaman, RMS Validation Section; Mary Binder, Criminal Records Section; Sandra Perkins, Criminal Records Section; Clarence Gibson, Employment Section; Alan Pierce, Building Security; Liz Faron, Chief's Office; Jarett Jones, RMS Validation Section; Steve Barnett, Supply Section; and V.L. Davis, Employment Section. Not pictured are Mike Arndt, Building Operations Unit; James Komoroski, RMS Validation Section; and Mary McCune, Traffic Investigations Unit.

## Reward up to \$5K for KCMO murders

**I**t's now a lot more lucrative to help police solve a murder in Kansas City, Mo.

Chief Rick Smith and Greater Kansas City Crime Stoppers Director Rick Armstrong announced Nov. 3 that anyone who submits an anonymous tip leading to an arrest for a homicide that has occurred or will occur in Kansas City, Mo., can now receive up to \$5,000 in reward money. The previous maximum reward was \$2,000.

"Most homicides are solved by witnesses," Armstrong said. "And there are those people who would be willing to come forward if they were enticed by an increase in the dollar amount. It's been proven, both in our practice and also in some other studies."

The \$5,000 reward is only for homicides that happened in Kansas City, Mo. That's because of special funding arranged by the City Manager's Office, Chief Smith, KCPD and the Greater Kansas City Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline. The City of Kansas City provided \$70,000 to enhance the rewards, which would cover 23 homicides.

The year 2016 ended with 131 homicides in Kansas City, which was a 10-year high. As of the day of the reward increase, Nov. 3, there already were 122 homicides for 2017. A little less than 40 per-

cent of them have been cleared.

Omaha, Neb., Crime Stoppers provides a \$25,000 reward for successful homicide tips, according to the organization's web site. The Omaha Police Department's homicide clearance rate was 86 percent in 2016 (although the city experienced just 29 homicides last year), according to the Omaha World-Herald.

Officials are hopeful the additional reward money will close more cases in Kansas City.

"We hope to see a dramatic increase (in tips)," Crime Stoppers Coordinator Detective Kevin Boehm said. "... It is our hope that the enhanced reward will motivate citizens to provide anonymous

information to the Crime Stoppers TIPS Hotline regarding any of these (2017) or previous homicides."

Tipsters in other metro-area homicides still are eligible to receive up to \$2,000 in reward money.

Anyone with information in a homicide or other felony crime is urged to contact the TIPS Hotline at 816-474-TIPS (8477). Tips also can be submitted electronically at [www.KCcrimestoppers.com](http://www.KCcrimestoppers.com), or by downloading the free mobile app, P3TIPS, on Google Play or the Apple iOS stores. All information is anonymous.



**Remain Anonymous • Receive Cash Rewards**

**Tips Hotline**

**816-474-8477**

**Web Tips**

**[www.KCcrimestoppers.com](http://www.KCcrimestoppers.com)**

**Free Mobile App**

**[www.P3Tips.com](http://www.P3Tips.com)**



# Helicopter Unit celebrates 50 years

**F**ifty years ago, former Kansas City Missouri Police Chief Clarence Kelley authorized an aerial patrol squad, and on Oct. 7, the current KCPD Helicopter Unit marked that anniversary with a rare public open house.

An estimated 400 to 500 people attended the open house at the hangar, located at 4601 Eastern Ave. All three helicopters were on display, and there were flight demonstrations of the aircraft.

In November 1967, KCPD sent one lieutenant and five officers to Long Beach, Calif., for flight training and purchased three Hughes 300B helicopters. After training, the officers flew the helicopters back to Kansas City.

The 1970 KCPD Annual Report proclaimed, "Police helicopters leap over surface traffic as though it were not present. They go where roads don't; water barriers don't deter them. The police helicopter is unparalleled as an observation platform."

Every surviving member of the original six officers assigned to the Helicopter Unit attended the Oct. 7 open house: Bill Dycus, Jack Brady, Bill Moulder and Billy Reed. William Bumpus is deceased, but his daughters came in his stead. Jim Lohmeyer was very ill, but his son was there on his behalf. (Unfortunately, Lohmeyer passed away Nov. 12.) They all got a few special surprises, as well.

"They didn't receive wings back then, so we had a wing ceremony where we bestowed their wing pins



**Above, the "Original Six" KCPD Helicopter pilots: Jack Brady, Billy Reed (kneeling), Jim Loyhmeyer, Bill Dycus, William Bumpus and Bill Moulder. Below, the Original Six or their children at the 50th Anniversary open house: Bill Lohmeyer (blue shirt), son of Jim Lohmeyer; Moulder; Glenn Cherry; Dycus; Reed; Annette Bumpus-Page and Babette Bumpus-Glenn (daughters of William Bumpus) and Jack Brady (seated).**



on them," said Captain Shawn Nichols, commander of the Patrol Support Unit.

The current Helicopter Unit officers also took the original six or their family members up for flights.

Other former unit members from throughout the years came, too, but they weren't the only ones. The open house drew large interest from the community. Many heard about the event on KCPD's social media sites or through news outlets and wanted to see the choppers up close, including many children. Helicopter Unit staff members welcomed everyone with barbecue and cake.

The three helicopters in today's fleet were purchased in 2012 at the cost of about \$8.6 million. They were custom-built to meet KCPD's needs and were funded by

the Public Safety Sales Tax, as well as federal grant and asset forfeiture funds. All of KCPD's current pilots (and those through the history of the unit) have their FAA commercial rotorcraft pilot ratings.

As the only law enforcement agency in the Kansas City metropolitan area with helicopters, KCPD choppers frequently assist other agencies in the prevention of crime and disorder, apprehension of criminals and location of missing persons. The helicopter crew continuously monitors police radio frequencies and responds to those calls for service most likely to assist officers on the ground.

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to the end of their life cycles, including in-car cameras and computers, E-ticketing machines, and the portable radio system. Replacement of the radio system alone is estimated to be \$9 million and must happen within the next four years.

"The decision of whether to implement body cameras also will be steered by whether

we have updated in-car camera and computer systems that could be compatible with them," Chief Smith wrote. "It's a logical progression."

Board President Shurin wrote that KCPD's reduced staffing in recent years has negatively impacted public safety.

"The Board of Police Commissioners and

Chief of Police realize they have a responsibility to City government and the people of Kansas City to spend tax dollars wisely," Shurin wrote. "This request for additional staff reflects that. Taxpayers deserve timely and effective police service, and in too many instances, KCPD has fallen short of community expectations because of understaffing."

## Upcoming Events

November 21  
Headquarters Blood Drive

December 2  
Christmas Party for  
Children of Homicide  
Victims

December 12  
Board of Police  
Commissioners Meeting

The Informant is a  
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Media Unit  
(816) 234-5170  
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## Officially Speaking

### Awards

**Life-Saving Award**  
Sergeant Jason Quint

**Special Unit Citation**  
Firearms Training Section

**Meritorious Service Award**  
Sergeant Ward Smith

**Certificate of Commendation**  
Communications Specialist Sarah  
Slentz

### Retirements

Officer Marlon Buie  
Detective Bradley Evans  
Officer Marlin Gaddy  
Officer Shannon Marsh  
Officer Dennis Mason, Jr.  
Sergeant Lee Richards  
Sergeant Michael Seward

### 25-Year Ring

Admin. Asst. Gina Lyons

### Obituaries

Sergeant Patrick Kelly  
Ret. Civilian Martha Carlson  
Ret. Officer Loren Funke  
Ret. Civilian Janice Kelley  
Ret. Detective Arthur Felts

The mission of the  
Kansas City Missouri Police  
Department is to  
protect and serve with  
professionalism, honor and  
integrity.